

CLARKSVILLE WEEKLY CHRONICLE.

R. H. YANCEY, Editor.

FATHER RYAN.

It is said that Father Ryan wrote his "Conquered Banner" in this city while stopping with the family of Mr. John C. Conroy. It is certainly a fact that he was here frequently in the years immediately following the war, preaching in this place and in Nashville.

There are places in Scotland invested with peculiar interest because they represent the scenes where Burns brought forth some of his most noted verse, and all countries are won't to attach a special regard to localities where their great poets have lived and sung. Of all poems "The Conquered Banner" most fittingly commemorates the greatest event in the history of the South, and no other so fully and feelingly portrays the sentiment entertained by the Southern people in regard to the lost cause immediately after its failure. Clarksville, therefore, can take a just pride in the reflection that the inspiration that produced this poem came to its talented author while he sojourned within her precincts.

The death of the "poet priest" which occurred at the Franciscan convent in Louisville last Thursday night, has made him the subject of discussion and revived the interest in his writings. He was a native of Norfolk, Va., and very intensely Southern in his feelings. He served as a chaplain in the Confederate army and was wounded in the fight before Nashville. His brother David was killed while charging the breast-works at Franklin and the sad incident furnished the theme for one of his best poems.

It is the "Conquered Banner" on which Father Ryan's reputation as a poet chiefly depends. In his other productions he was not more than mediocre. This poem was fitted to the epoch and the skill of the poet in so aptly voicing the deep feelings which he felt in sympathy with millions of people, carried him beyond himself and made his genius soar to a greater height than it could otherwise have reached.

His poems are all possessed of much metrical beauty and are striking and pleasing in their rhythm. They lack the stronger attributes of the highest order of poetry. His fame will be kept green in the South and his memory long cherished by the people of his native section. He has

"Walked down the valley of silence,
Down the dim, voiceless valley alone,"
but the work that he wrought abides with us; he has builded for himself a monument more enduring than brass.

A SHOCKING OUTRAGE.

The Nashville medical colleges dispose of the subjects from their dissecting tables by dumping them, packed in barrels, into the Cumberland river. At least this is a fair inference to be drawn from the fact that several barrels containing the mutilated remains of human beings have been found floating in the Cumberland, or washed ashore on its banks, within the past five weeks.

The barrels all bore indications that they came from Nashville and as it is not probable that a gory murder mill is being worked in that city and its victims thus disposed of, the only tenable theory is that the dead bodies are discarded "stiffs" from the medical colleges.

Common decency and humanity should suggest that these bodies be buried when they have served the purposes of science. It is revolting and inhuman that they be packed up like so much garbage and sent adrift in the river—but that is not of what we wish to speak.

The Cumberland river below Nashville runs through civilized communities, whose people pay more attention to the remains of a human being than they do the body of a dead dog and these ghastly finds are shocking to their sensibilities. Furthermore the law makes it obligatory that an inquest be held over all dead persons thus found, and each inquest costs the county that holds it \$10. The burial that the county must give is an additional expense.

Three of these bloody barrels have been found in Montgomery county and one in Cheatham county since the recent high water.

The people of these counties feel a sense of outrage in this matter and have a right to. If the authorities in Davidson county or the Nashville police do not bring the perpetrators of so wretched a joke to punishment, they should at least see to it that the obnoxious practice is not kept up.

The Obion Democrat remarks: "It is strange that Brownsville should have no candidate for governor. Brownsville is a candidate foundry." Ex-Secretary of State Dave Nun, is a candidate for governor on the Republican ticket, and Al Freeman, another Brownsvillian has been mentioned in the same connection. Does the Democrat want Brownsville, to supply candidates for both parties?

THE FATE OF THE BLAIR BILL.

The Blair Educational bill will not be made a law by the present Congress; its enemies have succeeded in smothering it in the House committees. The Senate bill which was referred to the Educational Committee was promptly shelved and Mr. Willis' substitute has been subjected to the same fate in the Committee on Labor.

It is apparent from the vote taken on the reference of Mr. Will's bill that if it should ever be brought before the House it will be passed, there being a decided majority in its favor.

This way of killing measures by trickery and parliamentary chicanery is highly reprehensible and ought to be resented by the people. They send their representatives to Congress to vote on questions and measures and not to smother them in the committee rooms, and the member who is guilty of such practice ought not to be returned by his constituents.

Suppose the Blair bill had been made the principal issue on which the present House of Representatives was elected, (and this was to some extent true) the will of the people is defeated by a shrewd committeeman who engineers the thing in such a way as to get it shelved and prevent its coming to a vote. There is no majority rule or popular government about that sort of thing.

We hope to hear this piece of sharp practice condemned in unmistakable terms in the next election. The people are the masters and need only to assert their authority.

SINCE the editorial in regard to the suppression of the Blair Educational bill in this issue was written, the Labor Committee has decided to report favorably a bill offered by Mr. Crane, of Texas, which proposes to distribute among the States and Territories, through the Secretary of the Treasury, seventy-five millions—to be derived from the sale of public lands—in sums proportioned to the scholastic population between the ages of eight and fourteen. This measure will be acceptable if nothing better can be had, but the Blair bill is decidedly preferable in that it is the surplus in the treasury it proposes to dispose of, which will be appropriated for purposes less commendable if it does not go that way. Then too, the Blair bill provides for a distribution on the basis of illiteracy and that would send the money to the South where it should come. The making of this substitute is a decided impertinence in the labor committee.

HON. JEFFERSON DAVIS and Gen. Gordon were received with a great deal of enthusiasm in Montgomery, Ala., Tuesday, where they went to be present at the dedication of a Confederate monument. Mr. Davis will go from Montgomery to Atlanta to witness the unveiling of the Ben Hill monument. The Republican press will, of course, raise a howl over these events, but its outcry will be without affect. They signify nothing except that the South is true to her traditions. She is also true to the Union as it now exists and the sensible people of the North are coming to recognize that there is no incompatibility in the two. To be true to tradition is a sentiment, to be true to the Union is a fact.

The Courier-Journal's Washington correspondent having taken a poll of the members of the House on the tariff question, that paper concludes that there "are not quite enough Democrats ready to support the tariff bill of the Ways and Means Committee to insure its passage." An admission of this kind from the Courier-Journal may be taken as conclusive that the bill will not become a law. It is in order now for the Democrats to put Morrison aside and frame a sensible tariff bill. The party is committed to tariff reform and something in that direction is expected of the present Congress.

The Democrats of Pennsylvania are considering the advisability of making Mr. Powderly, the Grand Commander of the Knights of Labor, their candidate for Governor. That would be a good thing for the Pennsylvania Democrats, but its benefit to Mr. Powderly is another question. In the first place he will have a Republican majority of about 80,000 to overcome before he can be elected, and if elected, will have sacrificed his influence and usefulness in the order to which he belongs, for the two years occupation of an unimportant official position. Mr. Powderly had better steer clear of politics.

The head line artist of the Nashville Union is not always accurate. An article in the Wednesdays edition of the paper headed "John Kelly, His Family, their Pedigree and Political Proclivities," told about the daughter of Pig Iron Kelly and the lineage of the Polish Prince she married. How the "Political Proclivities" was suggested doesn't appear. We suppose it was thrown in to make an alliteration; that figure is the fort of your true head line artist.

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The Lebanon Herald thinks that newspaper references to Frank Wilson are in bad taste because he is a private citizen and not an office seeker(?). The Herald is over cautious. Mr. Wilson very promptly and magnanimously relieved the Governor of any embarrassment concerning himself in connection with the appointment of a United States Senator. That was a public act and legitimate food for newspaper discussion. By the way what is the bond of sympathy that makes the Herald the close friend of Hon. Frank Wilson?

A special recently sent from this city to the Nashville Union described negro hair as "nappy" and the fastidious genius who presides over the telegraph columns of that paper changed the word to "curly." The young man probably prefers sound to sense and regarded curly as the more aesthetic term. It may be that from association and personal habit, he knew the discarded word only in the sense in which Burns used it.

"While we sit bousing at the nappy
An' gettin' fou and unco happy."

The Dickson Press notes that a considerable amount of tobacco is shipped from that point to Nashville. If there was a railroad from here to Dickson, as there should be, this tobacco would all come to Clarksville. This city is by virtue of location and prestige the tobacco market of this section, and it is only for the lack of proper transportation facilities that any of the crop grown within its reach is diverted to other markets.

BROTHER DOAK of the Memphis Avalanche had an editorial in a recent issue of his paper on "The Candidate." He treated the subject with tropes and figures, and, in fact, made it a regular spring poem. His object was, no doubt, to prove the latter alternative of the problem put in Bunthorne's little poem. He wished to show that nature is really bountiful in sentiment and "That in all her works
Something poetic lurks;
Even in colicynth and calomel."

The communication from our versatile correspondent "Demosthenes" in this issue, indicates that he has been converted to the temperance cause. There is no need, therefore, that his production in last week's CHRONICLE be answered, and we ask universal consent to withdraw that chromo we offered as a premium to the man who could reply to him.

The head lines to the foreign news in the Nashville morning dailies Monday, were not altogether in harmony, but calculated to leave the reader in doubt. The American proclaimed in big type "More Pacific" while the Union cried in letters of equal size "No Chance for Peace."

The Obion Democrat hopes to see Whitthorne "succeeded by that able statesman and staunch Democrat, John F. House."

Why didn't the legislative investigating committee discover the fact that Warden Harris was receiving \$100 per month illegitimate pay from the lessees of the penitentiary? The question thereupon arises does investigation investigate?

THE Nashville Banner has lately been found guilty of libeling Warden Harris and now it transpires that the Warden was guilty of a worse thing than the Banner accused him of. This is a privileged communication.

THESE questions very forcibly present themselves: Why was it to the interest of the penitentiary lessees to pay Warden Harris \$100 per month? What service did he do them? Are the lessees not as culpable in this violation of the law as the Warden?

HENRY GRADY, of the Atlanta Constitution, has been made President of the National Poultry Association. We always knew Henry was a spry rooster and are not astonished to learn that he has become the cock of the walk.

THE Cincinnati Post says "it is understood in Tennessee that Gov. Bate will succeed Whitthorne in the Senate." There are several statesmen in Tennessee who don't understand anything of the kind.

ACCORDING to the Laureate this is "the happiest day in all the glad new year." The custom of paying bills the first of the month wasn't in vogue in England or he wouldn't have said it.



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